



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/036,573	12/31/2001	Robert L. Popp	KCC 4770 (K.C. NO. 17,310	4042
321	7590	09/20/2005	EXAMINER	
SENNIGER POWERS LEAVITT AND ROEDEL ONE METROPOLITAN SQUARE 16TH FLOOR ST LOUIS, MO 63102			REICHLE, KARIN M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3761	

DATE MAILED: 09/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/036,573	Applicant(s) POPP ET AL.	
	Examiner Karin M. Reichle	Art Unit 3761	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 June 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-5, 8, 9, 11, 14, 16, 17, 20, 21, 28, 30, 31, 33-37 and 40-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2, 4, 5, 8, 11, 14, 16, 17, 20 and 21 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3, 9, 28, 30, 31, 33-37 and 40-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 June 2005 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 2, 4-5, 8, 11, 14, 16-17, and 20-21 remain withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention and species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in Paper No. 6. The invention and species elected are a mechanical fastening system with an inelastic stabilizer, force application without substantial necking or gathering, and machine direction orientation.

Specification

2. It is noted that the amendment to page 5 still does not comply with 37 CFR 1.121, effective 7-30-03, i.e. includes one new paragraph and one old paragraph but while the new paragraph is now not underlined, the old paragraph does not show any of the amendments made thereto. Compliant new and old paragraphs should be submitted with any further response if Applicant desires such to be entered.

Drawings

3. The drawings were received on 6-22-05. These drawings are not accepted by the Examiner. Figures 8 and 9a-b do not show the “oriented” web material as described or claimed, as best understood, see discussion *infra*. For example, Figure 9b is described as a top plane view of the fastener of Figure 8 with the loop material shown drawn and secured to the substrate.

Art Unit: 3761

However, the Figure does not show the securement to a substrate. Nor is it clear that such shows an “oriented nonwoven loop material” as now defined at page 9 nor one in which a greater number of fibers in the nonwoven loop material are oriented due to application of force as now set forth in the claims.

4. The drawings are objected to because in Figure 2, upper left hand corner, there should be a line from 66 to the structure it denotes. Where are Figures 8 and 9a and 9b? Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

5. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the invention as claimed in claims 3, 9 and 28, 30-31, 33-37 and 40-43, as best understood, see discussion *supra* and *infra*, e.g.

Art Unit: 3761

“oriented nonwoven loop material”, such loop material in which the fibers are or are being, not were or have been, oriented by the application of force, must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Description

6. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: 1) in Figure 3, what is 78? 2) The description of the invention, i.e. “oriented nonwoven loop material”, is still unclear and inconsistent. For the sake of this objection alone, see rejections *infra*, it is assumed that there is support by the original specification for the amendments and arguments made by

Art Unit: 3761

Applicant. Applicant now argues at some places in the 6-22-05 response, e.g. page 13 and page 14, lines 1-25, and note also the Durrance declaration at section 2, that an “oriented nonwoven loop material” is one in which the orientable material, i.e. the starting material, is a nonwoven material, i.e. the fibers have a generally random orientation, and due to the application of force applied in at least one direction that at least one of the fibers (can be all) of the web, i.e. now oriented material, which forms the loop material of the mechanical fastener, i.e. the end product loop material, is reoriented to extend more in the direction of the draw, i.e. can include parallel to the direction of draw, than prior to the application of force or, in other words, more of the fibers extend in such draw direction than the number of fibers which were previously oriented in such direction. However, the definition of “oriented nonwoven loop material” now added to page 9 is not the same, i.e. is inconsistent, because such does not require an increase in the number of fibers oriented in the direction of an applied force due to such application, i.e. it just requires more fibers be parallel in that direction. Therefore, regardless of the number of fibers rearranged, i.e. one, some, all, and their direction upon rearrangement, i.e. more oriented, parallel, such is also inconsistent with the description at, e.g. the amendment to page 27, line 8, lines 1-30 and the abstract. The inconsistency is exacerbated by the Applicant’s arguments bridging pages 15-16 and the Durrance declaration, first two paragraphs of section 4 which argue the added definition. The claims also appear to be inconsistent further exacerbating the confusion. Specifically, not only do the claims use the terminology “oriented nonwoven loop material”, and thus the new definition, but they also require the oriented, not orientable, nonwoven loop material of the fastener include a web of fibers in which a greater number of fibers are, not previously were, oriented in a direction by the application of a force in such

Art Unit: 3761

direction to the web, i.e. there seems to be more than one orientation of fibers being claimed including one in which the loop material is attached to the substrate, i.e. is the fastener.

Applicant's attention is reinvited to paragraph 1 supra in which the substrate elected is inelastic and page 30, lines 4-6, i.e. in the elected species, the loop material once connected to the inelastic substrate is no longer extensible. Therefore, a clear, consistent description of the fastening system should be set forth, i.e. what does the terminology "oriented nonwoven loop material" encompass? Is the oriented material reoriented? How many times? Does the number of fibers aligned in a specific direction keep increasing every time there is a reorientation? How does such occur if the substrate to which the loop material is attached is inelastic? See also discussion *infra*. Appropriate correction is required.

7. The amendment filed 6-22-05 is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132(a) because it introduces new matter into the disclosure. 35 U.S.C. 132(a) states that no amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention. The added material which is not supported by the original disclosure is as follows: the amendment to page 9, line 11.

Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action.

As already discussed *supra*, Applicant now sets forth a new definition of the term "oriented nonwoven loop material". While there is support for the "oriented nonwoven loop material" being one in which the orientable material, i.e. the starting material, is a nonwoven material, i.e. the fibers have a generally random orientation, and due to the application of force applied in at least one direction the web, i.e. the fibers of the oriented material, i.e. which forms the loop material of the mechanical fastener, i.e. the end product loop material, is reoriented to extend more in the direction of the draw than prior to the application of force or, in other words,

Art Unit: 3761

more of the fibers extend in such direction than the number of fibers which were previously oriented in such direction. However, regardless of the number of fibers rearranged, i.e. at least one as argued by Applicant or all, and their direction, i.e. more oriented as argued by Applicant or parallel, the definition of “oriented nonwoven loop material” now added to page 9 is not the same, i.e. because such does not require an increase in the number of fibers oriented in the direction of an applied force due to such application, i.e. it just requires more fibers be parallel in that direction, i.e. the number of fibers so oriented could be the same both before and after force application. Where is the support for the new definition? While the Durrance declaration has been considered, as also discussed supra, since the statements, e.g. section 2 as contrasted to section 4, are not consistent such is not deemed to provide support for this new definition. The other examples of support set forth by Applicant on pages 14-17 of the response similarly do not provide support for such definition. It is noted that the reference and arguments with respect to U.S. Patent No. 4,965,122 do not appear to be commensurate with the scope of incorporation. The incorporation is set forth as “The orientable material used to form the oriented...material can be made”, not the oriented material is made, i.e. the starting nonwoven materials can be made like starting nonwoven materials of the incorporated reference. Furthermore, both Figures 5 and 6 of such reference show necked materials, i.e. oriented, not orientable and oriented materials as argued.

Claim Language Interpretation

10. Due to the lack of clarity discussed supra, the species elected, and as best understood of the claim terminology, e.g., the definitions thereof, and the claims being product by process claims, and thus also, i.e., considering MPEP 2113, i.e. the patentability of a product by process is based on the product itself not the method of production (Therefore if the end product in the product by process is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the product does not distinguish over the prior art even though the prior product was made by a different process), the first fastening component of claims 3, 9 and 28, 30-31 and 33-37, i.e. the end product, will be considered an oriented nonwoven loop material secured to a substrate which comprises a nonwoven web of fibers with more of the fibers, i.e. at least greater than 50%, e.g. 100%, generally parallel to a direction or, in other words, the first fastening component can be a nonwoven loop material comprising a nonwoven web of fibers generally parallel fibers to a direction. It is noted that contrary to Applicant's remarks, regardless of whether the claim is a product by process claim or not, the claims do not require the loop material web be applied to the substrate in an extended configuration or in a tensioned configuration. It is also noted that the number of direction oriented fibers of the orientable material nor which direction "a direction" is with respect to the end product is claimed. Claim 30 is interpreted as claiming a substrate integral with an article. Claim 35 is interpreted to claim the substrate integrally with just the one article of claim 33. The terminology of claims 40-43 which is similar to that of claims 3, 9 and 28, 30-31, and 33-37 will be interpreted the same as discussed supra.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102/103

11. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

12. Claims 3, 9, 28, 30-31, 33-37 and 40-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Procter & Gamble, EP '198.

Claim 28: See, e.g., Claim Language Interpretation section *supra*, Figures 1-3, 10, col. 3, lines 4-18, col. 4, lines 4-14, col. 6, lines 2-10, col. 8, lines 1-34, col. 9, lines 21-42, col. 13, lines 25-30, col. 14, lines 30-36 and col. 15, lines 29-41, i.e. the mechanical fastening system is 50 and has a first fastening component 20 of oriented nonwoven loop material 30 attached to a substrate, e.g., 22 and a second fastening component 52 of hook material. The fastening components are refastenable. The oriented nonwoven loop material can be a nonwoven web of fibers having generally parallel fibers in a direction. This claim as interpreted includes a product by process. The patentability of such claim is based on the product itself not the method of production. Therefore if the end product in the product by process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim does not distinguish over the prior art even though the prior product was made by a different process. See MPEP 2113. Also see the Claim Language Interpretation section *supra*. The end product, as best understood, is the same as or obvious from the product of '198, see cited portions *supra*. Claim 3: see Figure 1, col. 5, lines 4-21, i.e. at least one axis, i.e. axes are MD and CD and col. 6, lines 2-5. Claim 9: see col. 8, lines 30-31. Claim 34: see portions cited *supra*, i.e. fibers are essentially parallel and can be tensioned without dislocation, disarrangement, skewing, etc. or untensioned, i.e. the nonwoven web is free from

Art Unit: 3761

substantial necking and gathering. It is noted that the claim does not set forth when such freedom exists, i.e. before attachment, after attachment, before drawing, etc. Claim 30: it is noted that “integrally” does not require monolithic formation. See col. 14, line 50-col. 15, line 4. Claim 31: see col. 12, last line-col. 13, line 3. It is noted that the claim does not require direct attachment to the inelastic substrate. Claims 33-37: see discussion of claims 3, 9, 28, 30-31 and 34 supra and col. 14, line 50-col. 15, line 4. Claims 40-43: see discussion of claims supra.

13. Claims 3, 9, 28, 30-31, 33-37 and 40-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Procter & Gamble PCT ‘893.

Claim 28: See, e.g., Claim Language Interpretation section, Figures 1-8, page 4, lines 12 et seq, page 6, lines 4-7, page 7, lines 9-10, 13-15 and 21-23, page 8, lines 1-19, page 12, lines 8-9, page 13, lines 1-3, page 15, lines 13 et seq, i.e. the mechanical fastening system is 20 and has a first fastening component 22 of oriented nonwoven loop material 30 attached to a substrate, e.g., 34 and a second fastening component 24 of hook material 28. The fastening components are refastenable. This claim as interpreted includes a product by process. The patentability of such claim is based on the product itself not the method of production. Therefore if the end product in the product by process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim does not distinguish over the prior art even though the prior product was made by a different process. See MPEP 2113. The end product, as best understood, is the same as or obvious from the product of ‘893, see cited portions supra. Claim 3: see page 8, lines 1-7, page 15, lines 23 et seq, and page 19, lines 9-15. Therefore since the ‘893 device can include filaments 36 positioned in any direction, which includes a machine direction of the web, the ‘893 device is

Art Unit: 3761

considered to meet the language of the claims. Claim 9: see page 13, lines 1-3. Claim 34: see portions cited supra, i.e. fibers are essentially parallel and can be tensioned without dislocation, disarrangement, skewing, etc. or untensioned, i.e. the nonwoven web is free from substantial necking and gathering. It is noted that the claim does not set forth when such freedom exists, i.e. before attachment, after attachment, before drawing, etc. Claim 30: it is noted that “integrally” does not require monolithic formation. See page 18, lines 28-33. Claim 31: see page 10, lines 7-10 and page 26, lines 24-26, i.e. the second lamina 80 is inelastic and if attached to composite 90 when it is completely relaxed, the composite 90 is inelastic. It is noted that the claim does not require direct attachment to the inelastic substrate. Claims 33-37: see discussion of claims 3, 9, 28, 30-31 and 34 supra, and page 18, lines 28-33. Claims 40-43: see discussion of claims supra.

Response to Arguments

14. Applicants remarks with regard to form have been considered but are either deemed moot in that the issue has not been repeated or are deemed not persuasive for the reasons already set forth supra. Specifically, with regard to the remarks addressing Noel and Weirich, such remarks have been considered but are deemed not persuasive in that they are narrower than the claim language as best understood, discussed supra, and the teachings of the prior art. Attention is again invited to the discussion of product by process claims, i.e. patentability is determined upon the structure of the end product, and the specific portions of the references cited. Applicant has not set forth how the process of making the now claimed product, as best understood, has imparted some structure to the end product which distinguishes over that of the prior art.

Conclusion

15. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

The amendments to the specification, drawings and/or claims filed 6-22-05 necessitated any new grounds of rejection

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karin M. Reichle whose telephone number is (571) 272-4936. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tanya Zalukaeva can be reached on (571) 272-1115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3761

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Karin M. Reichle
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3761

KMR
September 15, 2005